

MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 21, 2013

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Ronald G. Sipkema, H. Dan Stalbaum, Gerrit H. DeVries, Rein O. Bontreger, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan and Andrew Andree. Also present was the Auditor of Jasper County, Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor, Donna Horner. Mr. Sipkema called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Bontreger.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 16, 2013 with the removal of the word "her" from the Innkeeper's Tax paragraph. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COUNTY GENERAL/COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET: The request was for \$5,000.00 for payment of employee bonds. This line was omitted from the 2013 Budget. Mr. Price made a motion to approve this request within **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-05A**. Mr. Stalbaum seconded and this motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /COUNTY GENERAL FUND/CORONER'S BUDGET: Advertised in the County General Fund-Other Services and Charges-Coroner's Budget was \$2,500.00. This request is to cover attorney fees. Councilman Stalbaum made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-05B** as advertised. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /REASSESSMENT FUND/ASSESSOR'S BUDGET: Advertised in the Reassessment Fund was \$1,989.00. This amount is needed to cover the Level II Bonus for Deputy Assessor Tammy Brubaker of \$500.00 and the Level II Bonus of \$500.00 plus an additional amount in salary in the amount of \$989.00 because of a miscalculation during the budget process. Mr. Price made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-05C**. Councilman DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION /ANIMAL DONATION FUND: Mr. Bontreger made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2013-05D** in the amount of \$245.00 to appropriate the money donated for seized animals in order to pay for the hay invoice. Mr. Price seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

MORGUE UPDATE: Mr. DeVries stated he was concerned about the morgue project after reading a newspaper article. Councilman Bontreger stated that this is still in the dream phase with several options being discussed. Commissioner Walstra added that he and Mr. Boersma will be visiting the north annex to see what options may be there. Commissioner Culp also explained the different options at hand.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DRILL: Mr. Bontreger wanted to thank Karen Wilson, Emergency Management Director on the emergency tornado drill held at the Jasper County Fair Grounds in April. He was impressed with the attendance of the several different first responder units present and all of the resources we have available but also noted the weakness of radio communication if we did have a major disaster. The council also discussed having a financial

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office work, attending board meetings and daily operations of the airport. Mr. Sipkema also asked who owns the airport ground. Mr. Andree and Mr. Cozza replied that the county still owned the property.

TAX ABATEMENT PACKAGE UPDATE: Mr. DeVries asked about the status of Jasper County's Tax Abatement Application Package. Attorney Monfort stated it is a work in progress.

WHEEL TAX AND EXCISE SURTAX: Councilman Jordan commented he was pleased that the state legislators didn't pass the bill to mandate counties to adopt a wheel tax and excise surtax in order to receive additional road funding from the state. John Boertjes, a concerned citizen was present to voice his concern with this tax.

DETENTION CENTER HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING ISSUES: Commissioner Walstra gave an update on fixing these issues. The commissioners signed a letter of intent with EMCOR, the company that makes recommendations to improve energy system's performance and conserve energy. This plan includes three boilers (one being redundant), lighting, return exhaust relief and duct modifications which should save the county \$124,000.00 a year and after five and one half to six years this project will have paid for itself. The total cost for this project is \$685,000.00. For \$3,500.00 a year EMCOR will guarantee what the savings will be and the county has the option to renew at after year. The work will start around the beginning of June and be completed before fall. Auditor Grow is to research what fund to pay this from. Mr. Price made a motion to support the commissioners with this plan and a seconded was made by Mr. Stalbaum. An additional appropriation will be advertised for the next meeting.

COURTHOUSE EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT: Commissioner Culp was present to inform the council that Town and County Paving received the bid to do the paving of the courthouse employee parking lot and hopefully this will get done this summer.

ADA RESTROOMS UPDATE: Commissioner Culp also stated work will begin about June 1st to update the restrooms in the courthouse and courthouse annex to become ADA compliant. Hamstra Builders will be doing this work.

NEW ROAD FUNDING: Another item Commissioner Culp updated the council on was the new road funding. Jasper County will received \$718,122.00 annually in additional monies from the state. This money will go into the MVH Fund.

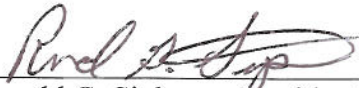
RECYCLING: The next item on Commissioner Culp's agenda was the recycling center at the north annex. He stated there will be program changes at this site. Jasper County receives \$22,000.00 a year for this center from the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District and this doesn't cover the labor costs. The county also needs to purchase two new recycling trailers.

COURTHOUSE REFURBISHING: Culp also explained about the refurbishing being done in the commissioners' room and how the commissioners plan on working on one room in the courthouse at a time as money allows.

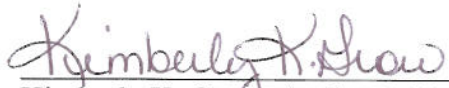
JCEDO: Kevin Kelly was present to introduce Jasmine Hall. She graduated from St. Joseph College on May 12th and started her job with the JCEDO on May 13th as the Community and Business Relations Coordinator. Her position will include the administrative duties in the office along with working with groups in the county and hopefully will become actively involved with the tourism commission.

TOURISM COMMISSION: Councilman DeVries asked for an update on the Jasper County

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Ronald G. Sipkema, President



Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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